Can. Douglas Slate Quarrying Pam. Company of Nova Scotia.

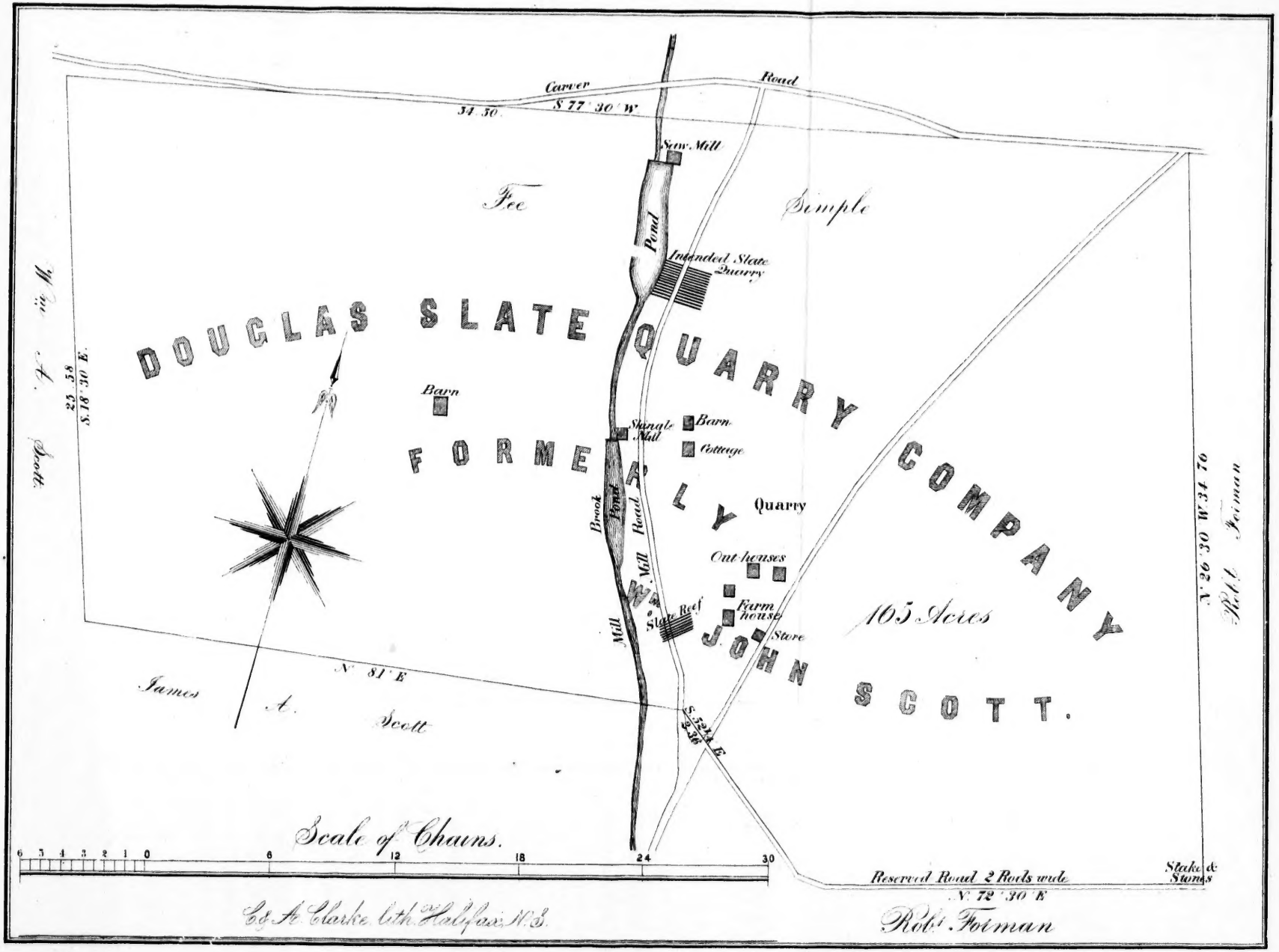
PROSPECTUS

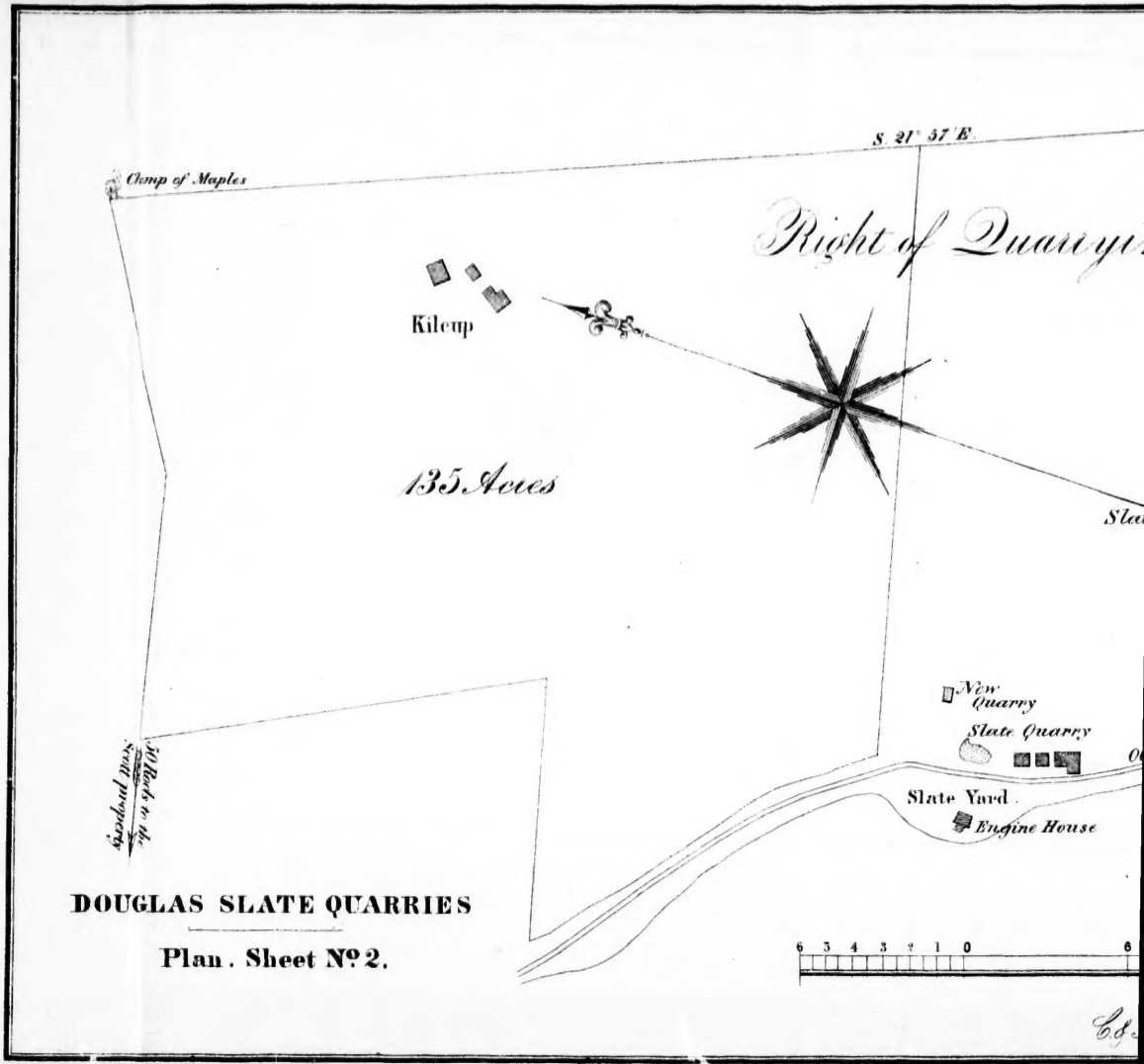
OF THE

DOUGLAS

Slate Quarrying Co.,

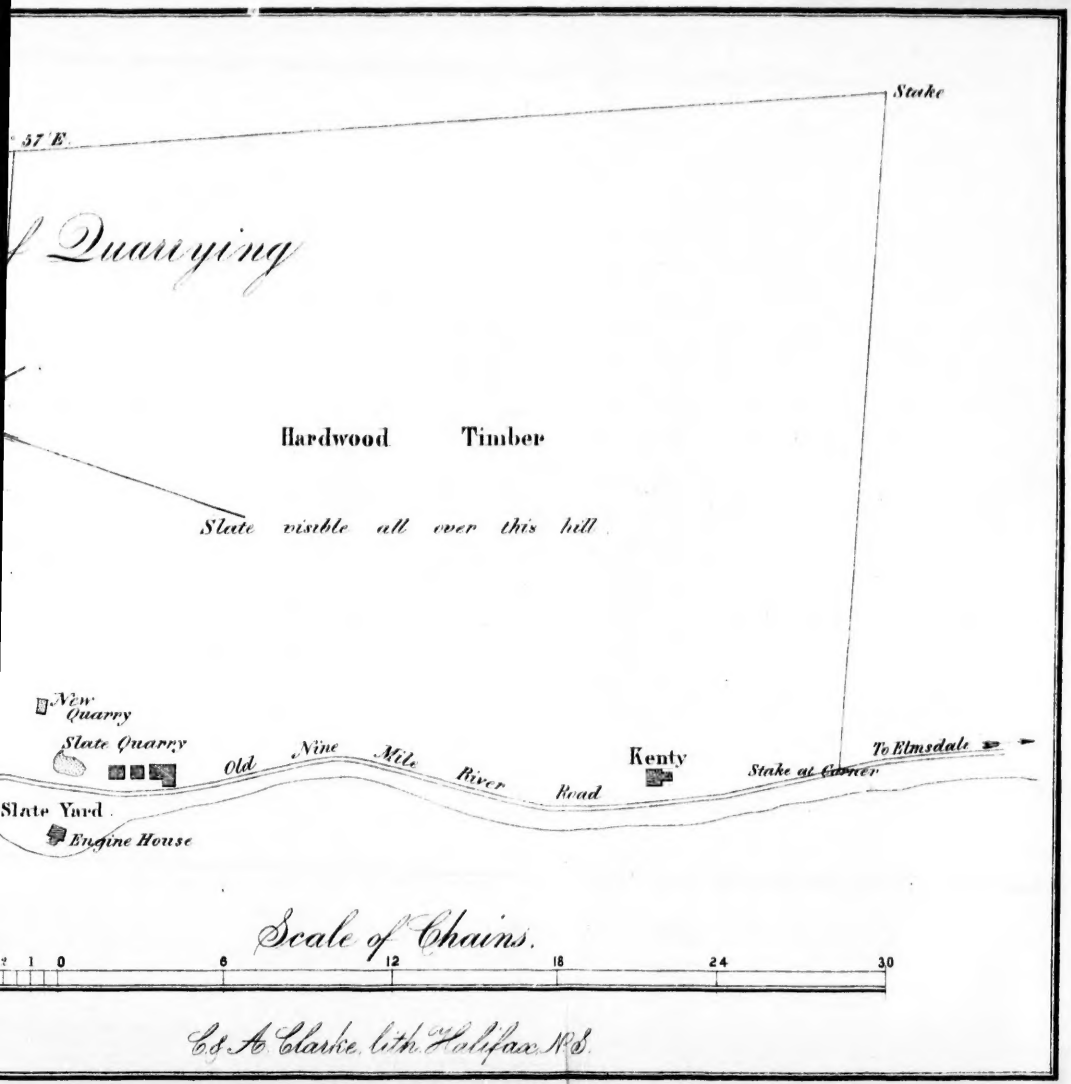
OF NOVA SCOTIA.


Carver
Road
34.30
S 77° 30' W
Saw Mill
Fee
Simple
Pond
Intended Slate Quarry
DOUGLAS SLATE QUARRY COMPANY
FORMERLY
Barn
Slate Mill
Barn
Cottage
Quarry
Brook
Pond
Road
Out-houses
Mill
Slate Reef
Farm house
Store
105 Acres
JOHN SCOTT.
N° 81° E
James A. Scott
Wm. A. Scott
23.58
S.18° 30' E.
Robt. Forman
N. 26° 30' E. 31.70
Scale of Chains.
6 5 4 3 2 1 0 6 12 18 24 30
Reserved Road 2 Rods wide
N. 72° 30' E
Stake & Stones
C & A Clarke lith. Halifax N.S.
Robt. Forman



DOUGLAS SLATE QUARRIES

Plan. Sheet No 2.



C & A Clarke, lith. Halifax N.S.

83 Acres

N: 70° 25° E.

For
Sample

DOUGLAS SLATE QUARRIES

Plan. Sheet No 2

Sc

0 5 1 1 1 1 1 0 6

70° 25° E.

Fee
Simple

Hardwood Timber

State reserve in
every direction

Pasture

P. L. Thomas

New Road

Old New Ida River Road

To Blanchard

Scale of Chains.

6 12 18 24 30

Geo. A. Clarke, C.E. Halifax, N.S.

PROSPECTUS

OF A

JOINT STOCK COMPANY,

TO BE CALLED

"THE DOUGLAS SLATE QUARRYING COMPANY, OF NOVA SCOTIA,"

To be Incorporated for the purpose of Quarrying and Manufacturing Roofing Slates, School Slates, Billiard Tables, Marbled Mantles, and all descriptions of Useful and Ornamental Slate Work.

Slate covered roofs are universally admitted to be the best in use, being more durable, and a greater protection against fire, than those covered by any other known material. The only reason why slates are not more generally used in this country, is the high price that has to be paid for them. They have to be imported from other countries at a very heavy expense; but if they could, by quarrying, be procured in Nova Scotia at a far more moderate cost, there can be no doubt whatever that not only all brick and stone buildings, but a great many wooden ones, would be roofed with them, instead of a variety of materials now employed, all immeasurably inferior to slates, with regard either to safety or durability.

The promoters of the Company are therefore glad to be able to bring to the notice of the public a property having upon it almost inexhaustible beds of the very finest description of Slates, the cost, not only of quarrying, but of delivering which, will be comparatively so small as to afford a supply at an exceedingly low rate, at the same time yielding a handsome profit on the capital invested.

The property consists of three different lots of land, situate at the Gore, Douglas, in the County of Hants, (*vide* plans in the front of this prospectus.)

No. 1 contains 165 acres of land, with farm houses, barns, stores, mills, and two quarries of Slate. This will be conveyed in fee simple to the Company.

No. 2 contains a right of mining and quarrying, &c., under a tract of land containing 135 acres. A quarry has been opened on this property. There are two cottages and a blacksmith's shop; also shafts, pump, and inclined railway, driven by the engine in the yard, on this property.

No. 3 contains 83 acres of land, is situate directly opposite No. 2—has house, barn, stable, engine house, and fine hardwood. This will also be conveyed in fee simple to the Company.

These properties have been visited and fully reported upon by Professor Lawson (*vide* copy of report.) His opinion is, "that, if judiciously worked by a company possessed of moderate capital, the concern will prove a thoroughly safe and permanent investment."

With respect to the cost of raising the different descriptions of Slates, &c., and the comparative prices of Douglas Quarry and imported Slates, the promoters have the authority of Mr. Thomas, the present Manager, who has had many years' experience in slate quarries in Wales, for stating that, when the quarries shall be fully worked, at not less than 50 squares per day, and the same proportion of other slate, slab, and ornamental work, then roofing slates can be delivered at Elmsdale Station, N. S. Railway, including all expenses for quarrying and hauling, per square, under $4. The present selling price of roof slates in Halifax is $7 to $9 per square. Hearth stones can be delivered at Elmsdale, 2 inches thick, smoothed and cut to size, for 10 cents per foot. The present selling price of freestone, cut and polished, is from 40 cents to 50 cents per foot. The slate is much superior. Mantles, marbled, polished and ready for use, can be delivered at same place for from $5 to $30. The present selling price here is from $15 to $50. School slates, fitted with frames, can be delivered at Elmsdale at not over 45 cents per dozen; and all other kinds of plain and ornamental slate work can be manufactured at these Quarries as cheap, or cheaper, than in any other part of the world.

These calculations are given with a large margin for contingencies, and it may be added that deliveries can be made, at the same prices, at a shipping port on the Bay of Fundy, for transportation by water.

The proprietors will convey to the Company all the lands mentioned above, with the buildings, machinery, engine, mills, and all other rights and privileges, for the sum of twenty-seven thousand dollars, ($27,000,)—fifteen thousand dollars ($15,000) cash on the formation of the Company, and twelve thousand dollars ($12,000) within six months, without interest.

It is therefore proposed to raise a Joint Stock Company with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, ($100,000)—shares of one dollar each, upon which fifty per cent shall be called, say twenty-five per cent when the Company is incorporated, and twenty-five per cent within three months thereafter; and it is not likely that more calls will be required, certainly not for a considerable time.

That a meeting of the Shareholders be held in Halifax as soon as the stock is subscribed, to appoint Directors and make bye laws. No shareholder to be eligible to be a Director unless he shall hold in his own right five hundred shares.

Further particulars may be had on application to Messrs. McCully & Blanchard, Prince Street, Mr. James Steinson, Halifax Hotel, or at the office of the subscriber, where the stock subscription list lies.

W. MYERS GRAY,
139 Hollis Street, Halifax, N. S.

REPORT OF PROFESSOR LAWSON.

Halifax, 18th May, 1868.

Having been requested to inspect the Douglas Slate Quarry and adjoining lands, with a view to forming an opinion as to the value of the minerals contained and the practicability of working them to advantage, I now beg to submit the following Report.

I visited the locality in Douglas Gore on the 1st of May,and spent two days in examining the property. Being accompanied by Mr. Steinson, the accredited agent of the proprietor, he pointed out the boundaries and furnished other necessary information, whilst Mr. Thomas, the manager, explained the results obtained in the workings hitherto, and answered enquiries on various other points.

The distance of the slate lands from the Elmsdale railway station is estimated at 14 miles; the road is for the most part level, and good for a country road, but might be much improved by a slight expenditure judiciously applied.

The Slate Quarry properties consist of 83 acres of land, held in fee simple, which is in form of a narrow strip, running in a westerly direction, nearly parallel with the slate beds, from the old Nine Mile River road and back over the Rawdon River, where it is densely covered with timber. There is likewise an area of 135 acres (Kilcup's farm) over which a right of mining is held.

The slate bands are large and extensive, running in an easterly and westerly direction, and there is a deep valley cut through them at right angles, north and south. There being little soil on the surface, the slates are exposed all along the opposite faces of the two hills which form this valley,—one of the hills rises to a height of about 250 feet above the level of the brook, and the other hill is somewhat higher. The slate beds extend over both hills, showing continuously from the bottom of the valley to the tops of the hills. It is obvious, therefore, that the slates are not only extensive in horizontal range, but likewise extend to a very great depth, at least on the northern portion of the property,—the rising up of whin on the southern portion of the Kilcup lands cuts off the slates to the southward.

On one part of the Kilcup property is situate the Slate Quarry which has been opened and worked for several years; this quarry is in the face of the hill looking towards the west. A considerable quantity of roofing slate has been taken out, and likewise slabs of eight to ten or fifteen feet in diameter. Some of the surface slates were of an inferior character, and one portion of the band is quite wavy and shaky. Some slates taken out here were likewise found to be liable to crack from not having been cut, as Mr. Thomas informed me, in the proper line of grain. But the slate improves very much in going downwards, and the roofing slate that has lately been taken out is of a very superior character. The slates are hard, compact, uniform in thickness, of good colour, and excellent quality. Several roofs recently furnished from the quarry present a neat, clean, uniform appearance, and show no indication of suffering from our severe climate. The best roofing slates have been found in the bottom of the quarry, and it is evident that in descending the slates become harder, less shaky, and of more uniform colour. The colour of the hard slates is an unobtrusive dark blue, very suitable for roofing.

In connection with the Slate Quarry there is a Slate Yard and Factory, with most of the necessary apparatus required for carrying on the business of quarrying. The quarry is kept dry by a pump driven by a ten horse steam engine, which likewise supplies power to the other machinery. The erections are situate close to the quarry, and in the north eastern corner of the property held in fee simple, on the face of the opposite hill to the westward, there is a manager's dwelling house, barns, and extensive stabling for horses.

The steam engine and pumping gear were at work during the time of my visit, but no quarrying had been done since the preceding season. In resuming operations it will be advisable to consider seriously whether a change in the method of working is not required. It is indeed possible to continue the quarrying on the face of the present opening; but, if any great amount of work is to be done, it will be necessary, from the shaky and imperfect character of the upper portion of slate, to incur a great expense in removing from day to day a very large quantity of useless material. Farther, on account of the faulty character of the bed, the working surface obtainable at this spot is insufficient for economical working on a large scale. Mr. Thomas, from his experience and intimate acquaintance with slate working, is very sensible of this difficulty. It is therefore proposed, instead of continuing the present opening, to make a larger facing to the northward, at the place marked in the plan "New

Quarry." At that place the slate is of a more uniform character, free from waves or shakes, and some which I had taken out show that even the surface slate was perfectly hard and of good colour, suitable for roofing.

In taking out roofing slates large slabs are likewise obtained, and it is therefore very desirable to find a market for them. Several very fine slabs have been got out, and some of them have been polished and show to much advantage. But the hardness of the slates on the Kilcup property, which is a quality so advantageous in roofing slate, is a serious objection where cutting, planing, and polishing are required. It remains, in fact, to be ascertained whether the prices realized will justify the labor required to bring these large hard slabs into saleable condition. In view of these facts it appears to be very desirable to secure a band of *soft* slates, without which the manufacture of cut and polished articles is not likely to prove remunerative.

Soft slate of this character has been observed in the "Scott property" adjoining, and portions of the slate which I examined on exposures by the roadsides and on the banks of the river, appeared to be well adapted for manufacture. The Scott property embraces a tract of land upwards of 800 acres in extent. The available slate bed is from 300 to 400 yards wide, (so far as can be ascertained,) and probably a mile and a half in length. A portion of it consists of a very fine quality of roofing slate, but the slates are for the most part of the soft kind to which reference has been made, and might be cut, planed, and polished for tables, mantle pieces, cisterns and ornamental work of various kinds. The water power and saw mills on the river which flows through the slate band, cutting it nearly at right angles, offer great facilities for a factory of this kind — both the saw mill and shingle mill, which belong to the property, being capable of conversion into planing and polishing factories, whilst the farm buildings and dwelling houses would afford other accommodation required. From information obtained from business men in the city, I have reason to believe that there would arise in Halifax alone an extensive demand for mantle pieces and fire grate fittings; and also for school slates, which are at present imported from Germany. Some examples of school slates have been made by roughly polishing a few pieces picked from the surface. If carefully selected and properly prepared, there seems no good reason why Douglas slates should not take the place of imported slates in the schools throughout the Dominion. The market in the United States for manufactured slate of all kinds, both useful and ornamental, is very extensive.

In conclusion, I would beg leave to express very strongly my opinion that the slate properties above described are of a valuable character, and that if judiciously worked by a company possessed of moderate capital, the concern will prove a thoroughly safe and permanent investment. The slate exists in such quantities that the supplies are not likely to be exhausted for several generations, even if extensively worked. In order, however, that the property may be remunerative, and its value permanently maintained, it will be necessary to avoid waste of labor, waste of material, and unnecessary accumulations of rubbish, by establishing at the outset a thoroughly systematic method of working, by opening up a working face of sufficient extent to meet the probable demands. The facilities for drainage are such that under proper management there need not be much expense incurred for the next ten or twelve years, and before then, if the business has increased, probably new quarries will have been opened on other parts of the property.

GEORGE LAWSON, PH. D., LL. D.,
Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy,
Dalhousie College and University, Halifax, N. S.

POSTSCRIPT.

HALIFAX, 18TH MAY, 1868.

At a distance of between 200 and 300 yards southwards from the opening on the slate bands on the Kilcup property, there appear one or two narrow bands of "whin rock," (quartzite,) through which run veins of white quartz. Judging from the general appearance of the quartz, the appearance in it of mispickel, and the reports respecting it by persons who have searched for gold and found a few "sights" in it, I believe that it is auriferous. A gold license has accordingly been secured on 30 areas of 250 x 150 feet each over the quartz leads.

At a distance of a mile or more in the other direction, viz., to the northward, there occur compact beds of iron ore, which are visible in a brook where the soil has been washed away. From its partly carbonaceous character and other circumstances, the iron-stone appears to belong to the carboniferous or coal series of rocks. The iron-stone is overlaid by a black, odorous, bituminous gravel, or slightly coherent conglomerate. Farther on to the north east, appear out-cropping strata at several points, consisting of shaley sandstones, such as occur in the coal measures with sigillaria and other coal fossil plants, and from beneath these shales, culm as well as large pieces of bituminous coal have been dug out. By scraping out the loose material at the outcrop I obtained a few fragments of coal. All these facts indicate the probable existence of coal beds at no great depth. The dip, both of the iron bands and of the fossiliferous shales and sandstones, is to the north east, and although the point of contact of the two has not been laid bare, I have no doubt but that the iron band will be found to be inferior in position to the shales and sandstones, and the coal beds may be found between.

A license to search for coal has been secured over five square miles of the most likely portion of the district.

GEORGE LAWSON, PH. D., LL. D.,
Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy.

REPORT OF MALCOM & JOHNSTON.

HALIFAX, N. S., 20TH MAY, 1868.

Having been asked our opinion of the slates from the Douglas Slate Quarry, we have much pleasure in being able to say that we roofed some buildings with them four years ago, and they have stood without leak or break during that time. The slates we used were from the top of the bed, and were not of that uniform color and thickness that could be desired. We have, however, had slates from a greater depth in the same quarry, and can recommend them to builders and others as being fully as durable and suitable for general use as any. The color is more uniform, being a dark blue.

MALCOM & JOHNSTON,
Government Contractors.